Course website: http://pages.cs.wisc.edu/~cstapleton/367

Course Description: This course will cover the concepts, implementation, analysis, and applications of a variety of basic and advanced data structures. It will also cover a limited number of algorithms that operate on discussed data structures. This course will provide experience in the use of an object-oriented programming language (Java).

Lectures: MTWR 11AM-12:15PM in COMP&ST 1221
June 15th-August 9th 2015

Instructor: Cea Stapleton (cstapleton@cs.wisc.edu ; use Piazza for course-related questions)
Office Hours: See website for week’s office hours

Teaching Assistant: Haseeb Tariq (haseeb@cs.wisc.edu ; use Piazza for course-related questions)
Office/Lab Hours: T/R 2-4pm

Grading: Homework assignments: 24% (7 + introductory assignment)
Programming assignments: 26% (4)
Midterm exam: 20% (in class 7/9/15)
Final exam: 25% (in class 8/6/15)
Class participation: 5% (attendance, question asking, piazza use...)

Note: Final grades will not be curved using the traditional bell curve, but at the instructor’s discretion. Speak to the instructor at any time during the course if concerns arise. The curve will not be decided until after the final exam.

There is no assigned textbook for the course, although there will be readings provided for most topics. Independent inquiry on all topics is also encouraged.

Academic Honesty
Cheating serves no one -- especially not you. Homeworks and programs are, contrary to popular belief, not torture but simply the most effective way to ensure you actually learn the material. If you cheat, you don't learn. Some of you will still cheat, despite this, and when we catch you: the first time you will receive a zero on the assignment, and any subsequent offenses mean you will be reported to the Dean.

**Collaboration**

Active joint inquiry is always encouraged, but homework and programs must be completed individually. Please study together and discuss course content, but do not discuss homework and programs directly.

**Getting Help**

- Questions: are to be posted on Piazza, a free tool that we're using to manage questions. Before posting a question, please search the assignment pages for an answer and also search Piazza to ensure your question hasn't already been asked.
- Please come to office hours if you’re confused, want to clarify something, or simply wish to discuss the material further.

**Homework**

No collaboration allowed, not accepted late, and submitted through Moodle.

**Programming Assignments**

No collaboration allowed, accepted late with 10% penalty each day, and submitted through Moodle.

**Exams**

**Policies**

- Exam Materials: No textbooks, electronic devices, or help from neighbors are allowed during the exams.
- Exam Conflicts: must be brought to the course coordinator's attention during the first two weeks of class.
❖ Make-Up Exams: are given only with your instructor’s permission when you are unable to take the regular exam due to extenuating circumstances. Requests for make-ups after an exam are rarely approved and only for verifiable emergencies.
❖ Regrades: may be requested if you believe there was an error in the grading of your exam. You must contact your instructor within one week after the graded exam is returned.

Class Participation

Class participation is 5% of your grade. This is done to encourage you to attend and be active and engaged in class. Please ask questions! You’ve heard this before, but it’s worth repeating: there are no stupid questions. Silence that covers lack of understanding does you no favors. Your instructor is happy to answer questions in class, office hours, or on Piazza.

Studying Tips

❖ Attend lectures and take notes. Taking your own notes on the material covered in class requires you to organize your thoughts and think about the topics in ways that simply listening does not. Reread your notes soon after lecture to find points that are not clear.
❖ Participate in class. Do in-class exercises and answer questions posed. These exercises give you additional practice on skills that you will need for homeworks, programming assignments and exams. Even more importantly, they help you identify which topics you do not understand. This will help you efficiently use your study time.
❖ Do the assignments. This is obvious, but some students mistakenly believe that the purpose of homework and programming assignments is to evaluate student’s skills. That is not the case, their purpose is to provide opportunities for you to practice the concepts taught in lecture. This practice is vital for learning and for performing well on the midterm and final exams.
❖ Prioritize your studying. First focus on your lecture notes, then review the assignments, and finally go over the readings.
❖ Study by re-organizing your notes. Successful studying requires you to be actively thinking about the material. An effective way to study is to re-organize and rewrite notes succinctly in terms that you understand.
❖ Avoid getting bogged down on specific points. If you can't figure something out, move on to other material and wait to ask your instructor or TA for clarification.
❖ You'll need to do some memorizing. Memorizing is a practical way to learn the definitions of terminology and concepts. A good way to memorize information is through repeated exposure to the material.
Form a study group. Often it is easier and more motivating to work with others when studying for an exam. You can distribute the work by having each group member come up with a few questions on a topic and then going over the solutions collectively. If you run into a concept that causes confusion often others in the group will feel similarly while some will have explanations. Working together will help you learn things by providing multiple perspectives and insights into the material. Try to find a study group that provides you with ample opportunity to communicate your understanding. It is your effort to express information that will be of the most benefit to your learning.

Finally, avoid cramming! We all know this, but often we find ourselves waiting until it is too late. This habit is worth breaking! Research has shown that studying in half hour to hour intervals followed by half hour breaks is far more effective than non-stop cramming.